

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of both the amendments presented above and the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is obvious under the provisions of 35 USC § 103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, the Examiner should telephone Mr. Peter L. Michaelson, Esq. at (732) 542-7800 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

A. Claim Status

Independent claims 59, 60, 61 and 62 are new and are formed of the substantive limitations of claims 51 and 52, 53 and 54, 55 and 56, and 57 and 58, respectively.

Claims 51-58 have now been cancelled.

B. Allowable Subject Matter/Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 52, 54, 56 and 58 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if appropriately re-written in independent form to include all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

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The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter. In response, the Applicants have now amended their claims accordingly to place them in condition for allowance. In that regard, new independent claims 59, 60, 61 and 62 combine the substantive limitations of claims 51 and 52, 53 and 54, 55 and 56, and 57 and 58, respectively.

C. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 27-33, 35, 37-51, 53, 55 and 57 under the provisions of 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over the teachings in the Johnson patent (United States patent 6,088,002 issued to T. Johnson et al on July 11, 2000) taken in view of those in the Tsui et al application (United States published patent application 2003/0003959 published on January 2, 2003). In light of the amendments now made to the claims, specifically the substitution of new independent claims 59-62 for prior claims 51-58, this rejection is now moot.

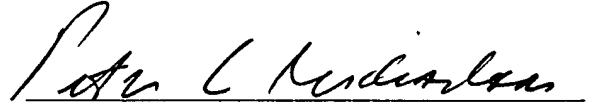
Conclusion

Consequently, the Applicants believe that all their claims, as they presently stand, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

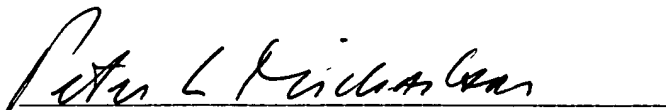
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